

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 FAA-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5744

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08601

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PGOV, GW

SUBJECT: BERLIN CIVIL AVIATION: SOVIET COUNSELOR'S
VIEWS

REF: BONN 7300

SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JUNE 12, SOVIET
POLITICAL COUNSELOR MENTIONED THAT HE THOUGHT THE
SOVIETS WOULD GIVE POSITIVE CONSIDERATION TO LUFTHANSA
FLYING TO MOSCOW VIA WEST BERLIN, AS WEST GERMAN SIDE HAD
PROPOSED TO USSR DURING RECENT BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN
(REFTEL). SOVIET COUNSELOR WENT ON TO GIVE SOME LONGER-
RANGE VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF BERLIN CIVIL AVIATION WHICH
EMBOFF SAID HE THOUGHT ALLIED AUTHORITIES COULD NOT
ACCEPT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JUNE 12, SOVIET
POLITICAL COUNSELOR MENTIONED THE APPROACH WHICH HAD BEEN
MADE DURING BREZHNEV'S RECENT VISIT TO BONN REGARDING
LUFTHANSA'S LANDING IN WEST BERLIN EN ROUTE TO MOSCOW.
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HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL POSITIVELY. HE SAID THE GERMANS HAD INDICATED IN MAKING THIS APPROACH THAT THE THREE WESTERN ALLIES SUPPORTED IT. EMBOFF SAID THE ALLIES HAD IN FACT AUTHORIZED THE WEST GERMANS TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE SOVIETS, BUT ADDED THAT HE DID NOT FORESEE SUCH LANDINGS REQUIRING ANYTHING BEYOND TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE FOUR POWERS TO ARRANGE FOR LUFTHANSA'S USE OF THE BERLIN CONTROL ZONE.

2. SOVIET COUNSELOR DID NOT DEMUR WHEN EMBOFF MADE THIS LATTER COMMENT, BUT SAID HIS EMBASSY HAD BEEN GIVING SOME THOUGHT TO THE LONGER- RANGE FUTURE OF CIVIL AVIATION IN WEST BERLIN. HE NOTED THAT SEVERAL WESTERN EUROPEAN AIRLINES WERE INTERESTED IN FLYING TO WEST BERLIN, AND THOUGHT THIS SUGGESTED THE NEED FOR A "NORMALIZATION" OF THE AVIATION PICTURE IN WEST BERLIN. IN HIS VIEW (WHICH HE STRESSED WAS SHARED BY PARTS OF HIS EMBASSY BUT WHICH HE DID NOT INDICATE WAS THE POSITION OF THE AUTHORITIES IN MOSCOW) A REASONABLE SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR ALL WESTERN AIRLINES WHICH WISHED TO FLY TO WEST BERLIN TO HAVE A GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE GDR WHICH WOULD PERMIT OVERFLIGHTS OF THE GDR FOR LANDINGS IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE CITY. HE SAID THAT THIS SORT OF GENERAL AGREEMENT SHOULD ALSO APPLY TO THE THREE WESTERN AIRLINES AS WELL, BUT INDICATED THAT THE FOUR POWERS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ARRANGING LANDINGS IN WEST BERLIN.

3. WHEN EMBOFF ASKED WHAT WOULD BECOME OF THE PRESENT AIR CORRIDOR SYSTEM UNDER THIS CONCEPT, SOVIET REP REPLIED THAT IT WOULD REMAIN BUT ONLY FOR USE BY ALLIED MILITARY AIRCRAFT. EMBOFF SAID THIS PROPOSAL WOULD UPSET THE AIR SITUATION IN BERLIN WHICH HAD WORKED QUITE SATISFACTORILY OVER THE YEARS. HE SAID HE WAS SURE THE ALLIES WOULD NOT WISH TO CHANGE THE PRESENT SYSTEM. THE SOVIET COUNSELOR THEN BACKED OFF SOMEWHAT AND SAID HIS VIEWS ONLY REPRESENTED SOME LONG- RANGE THINKING. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ALLIED AIRLINES' POSITION WOULD BECOME " ACHRONISTIC" AS MORE AND MORE WESTERN AIRLINES TRIED TO BREAK THE ALLIES' MONOPOLY AND OBTAIN

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PERMISSION TO FLY TO WEST BERLIN. EMBOFF SAID THE BERLIN AIR SITUATION WAS A SPECIAL ONE AND THAT HE COULD FORESEE NO DEVELOPMENTS THAT WOULD BRING THE ALLIES TO WISH TO CHANGE IT.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE INCLINED TO REGARD THE SOVIET DIPLOMAT'S COMMENTS AS A TRIAL BALLOON AT THIS POINT.

HIS REMARKS MAY ALSO INDICATE, HOWEVER, WHERE THE THINK-
ING OF THE SOVIETS (AND THE GDR) MAY LIE AS WE GET
INTO DISCUSSIONS OF LUFTHANSA LANDINGS IN WEST BERLIN.
HILLENBRAND

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